

MONTGOMERY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
Rockville, Maryland

October 5, 2021

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Danielle M. Susskind, Coordinator, Legislative Affairs

Subject: Board of Education Election Districts Plan

In accordance with Section 3-901(a)(2) of the *Education Article* of the *Annotated Code of Maryland*, the boundaries of the five Board of Education (Board) districts in Montgomery County must be redrawn after each decennial census to bring the districts into conformance with the requirement that “each district shall be substantially equal in population.” Pursuant to law, the Maryland General Assembly, during the upcoming 2022 legislative session, must redraw the districts so that they are in place for the June 2022 primary election and the November 2022 general election.

The Maryland General Assembly first established separate Board residence districts in 1987. The current residence districts are a result of the redistricting that followed the 2010 Census and are specified in Section 3-901(f) of the *Education Article*. The current map of the five residence districts are reflected in the attached document, Option A.

In alignment with historic practice and redistricting legal principles such as contiguity, compactness, and substantial equality in population among districts, staff generated four redistricting options. The goal was to draw new district lines that would maintain the current map to the extent possible; would maintain residence districts separate from councilmanic districts in keeping with the Board’s nonpartisanship and independence; would place, to the greatest extent possible, municipalities within single districts; and, to the greatest extent feasible, would keep school clusters intact within one district. Furthermore, the districts are in a better legal position if they do not vary by more than 10 percent in population.

During the last decade, the population of Montgomery County increased from 971,777 to 1,062,061, an increase of 11.4 percent. While each district showed growth, two districts showed disproportionate growth. Specifically, the population in District 1 increased the most with an increase of 25,502 individuals, a 13.7 percent increase, whereas District 5 saw the smallest increase of 10,185 individuals, a change of only 5.2 percent.

Computer-generated mapping plans, supported by 2020 Census demographic data, were developed by staff in the Division of Long-Range Planning. One of the options generated would leave the districts as is, resulting in a slightly higher than 10 percent deviation between the districts. The three additional options for new Board districts had a population variance of less than 10 percent (Attachment). The four options are:

- Option A—No Modification. Option A follows existing BOE election district lines. The blocks for the 2020 census are similar to the blocks from the 2010 census so there were

minor changes between the original Board election districts and Plan 2 districts. The uneven population growth within the districts during the past 10 years results in a positive deviation from the target (212,412) of 11,451 for District 3 and negative deviation of -10,340 for District 2. These deviations would total 21,791, which is slightly more than the 10 percent Deviation Population Threshold of 21,241.

- Option B—Slight Modification. Option B uses the pre-existing Board election district lines with some modifications to bring the district populations closer to the target population. The modifications consist of District 2 annexing portions of District 3, and District 5 annexing portions of District 4. With the modifications, the maximum deviation is 1,784 and minimum is -619 totaling 2,403, which produces a deviation of 1.1 percent, well below the 10 percent Deviation Population Threshold.
- Option C—Horizontal Regions. Option C attempts to group the population using horizontal bands. The goal of this plan was to diversify the districts ethnically and socioeconomically. The maximum deviation is 1,523 and the minimum is -1,617 totaling 3,140. The total deviation percentage is 1.5 percent, well below the 10 percent Deviation Population Threshold.
- Option D—Population Centers. Option D attempts to delineate districts around similar population centers. This plan attempts to collect similar urban to suburban areas within the 5 districts. Clarksburg and Germantown; Rockville and Gaithersburg; Bethesda and Potomac; Silver Spring and Wheaton; and Olney/Sandy Spring and Burtonsville were grouped together in this plan.

I recommend that the Board forward to our Annapolis delegation a redistricting plan that is consistent with the goals stated above and with the legal requirements for redrawing the Board district boundaries. Accordingly, the following resolution is offered for the Board's consideration:

WHEREAS, In accordance with the laws of Maryland, the boundaries of the five Board of Education districts in Montgomery County must be redrawn after each decennial census to bring the districts into conformance with the requirement for substantial equality of population; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Education has an opportunity to inform the county's delegation to Annapolis of its redistricting priorities and goals as the delegation develops a local bill for consideration by the Maryland General Assembly during the 2022 session; now therefore be it

Resolved, That the Board of Education recommend Option B as its preferred redistricting plan to be submitted to the county's state legislative delegation for incorporation into a local bill to be introduced in the next session of the Maryland General Assembly.

Attachment

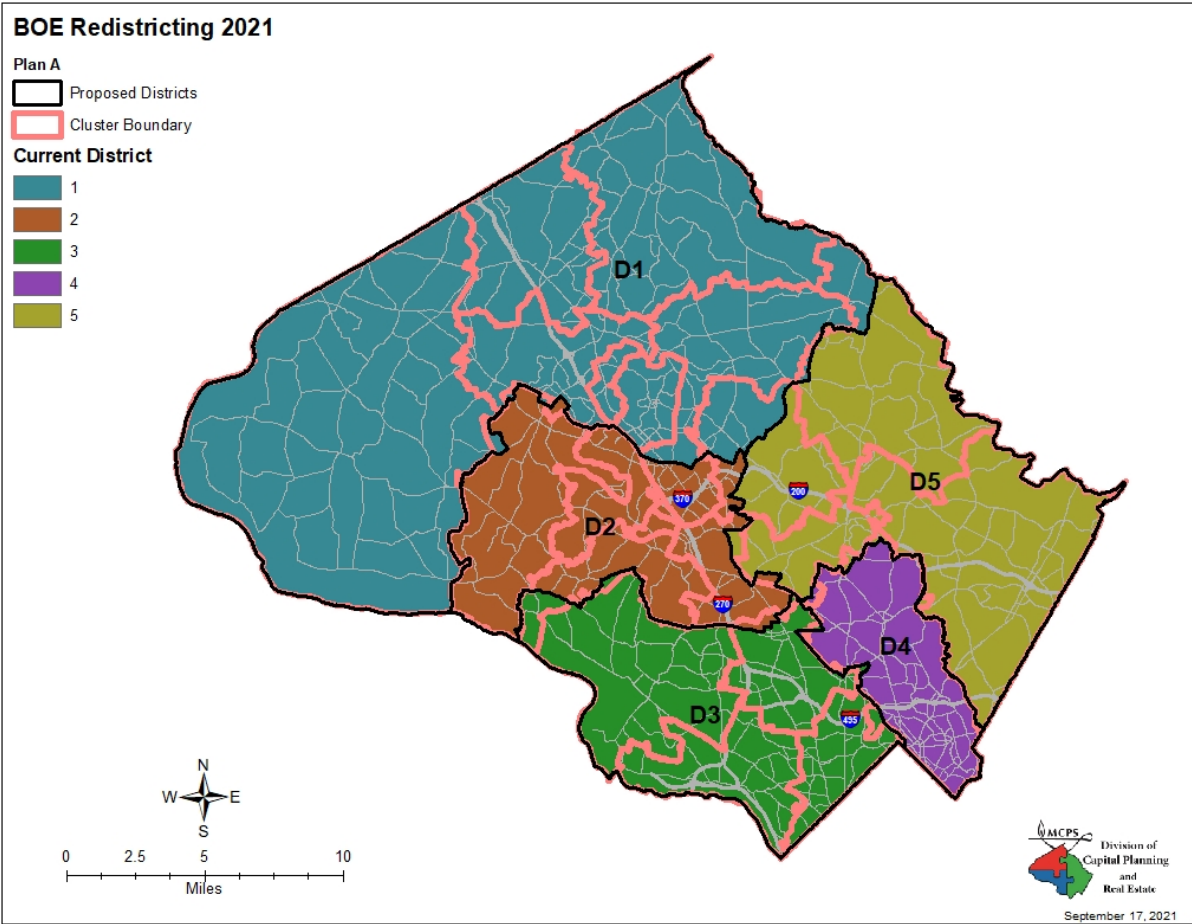
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### Board of Education Election Districts Options

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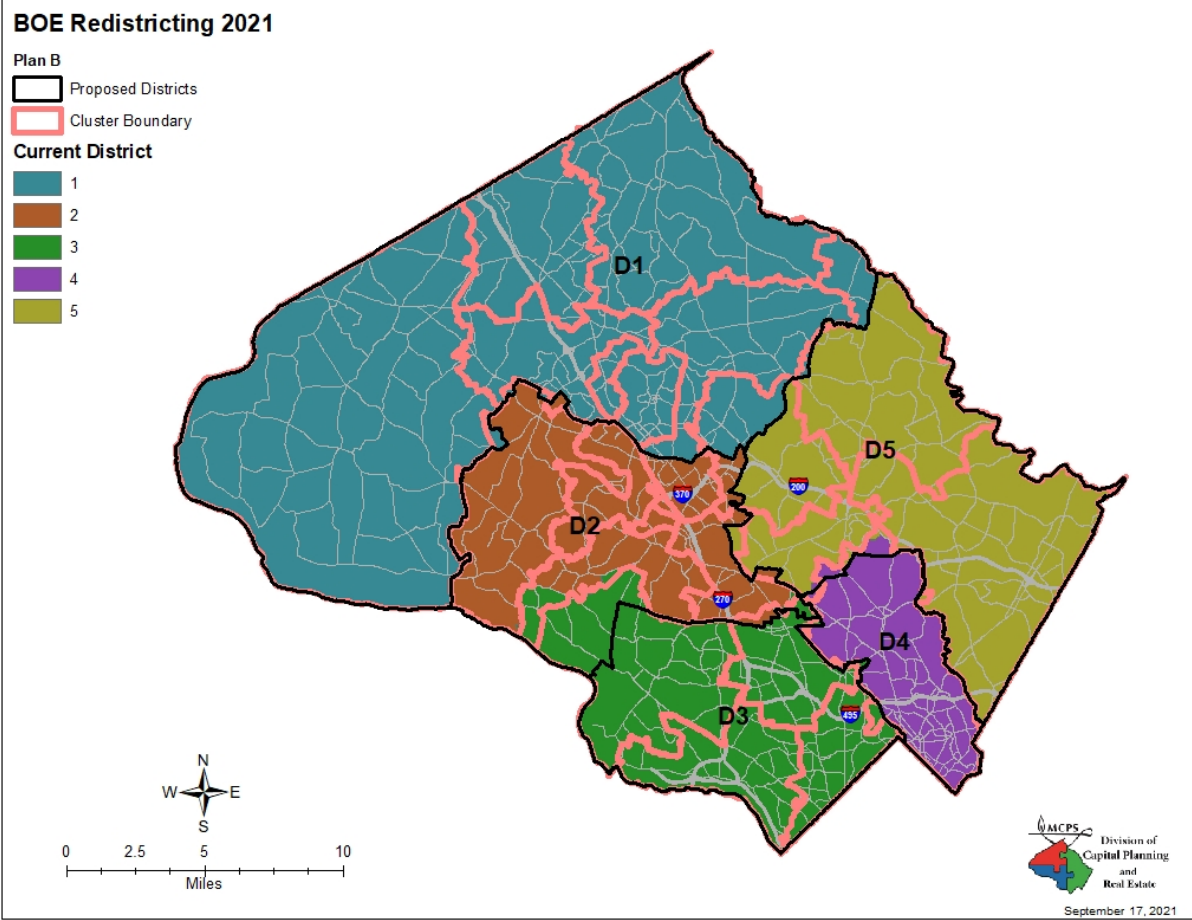
**Option A: No Modification**

- Option A follows existing BOE election district lines. The blocks for the 2020 census are similar to the blocks from the 2010 census so there were minor changes between the original Board election districts and Plan 2 districts. The uneven population growth within the districts during the past 10 years results in a positive deviation from the target (212,412) of 11,451 for District 3 and negative deviation of -10,340 for District 2. These deviations would total 21,791, which is slightly more than the 10 percent Deviation Population Threshold of 21,241.



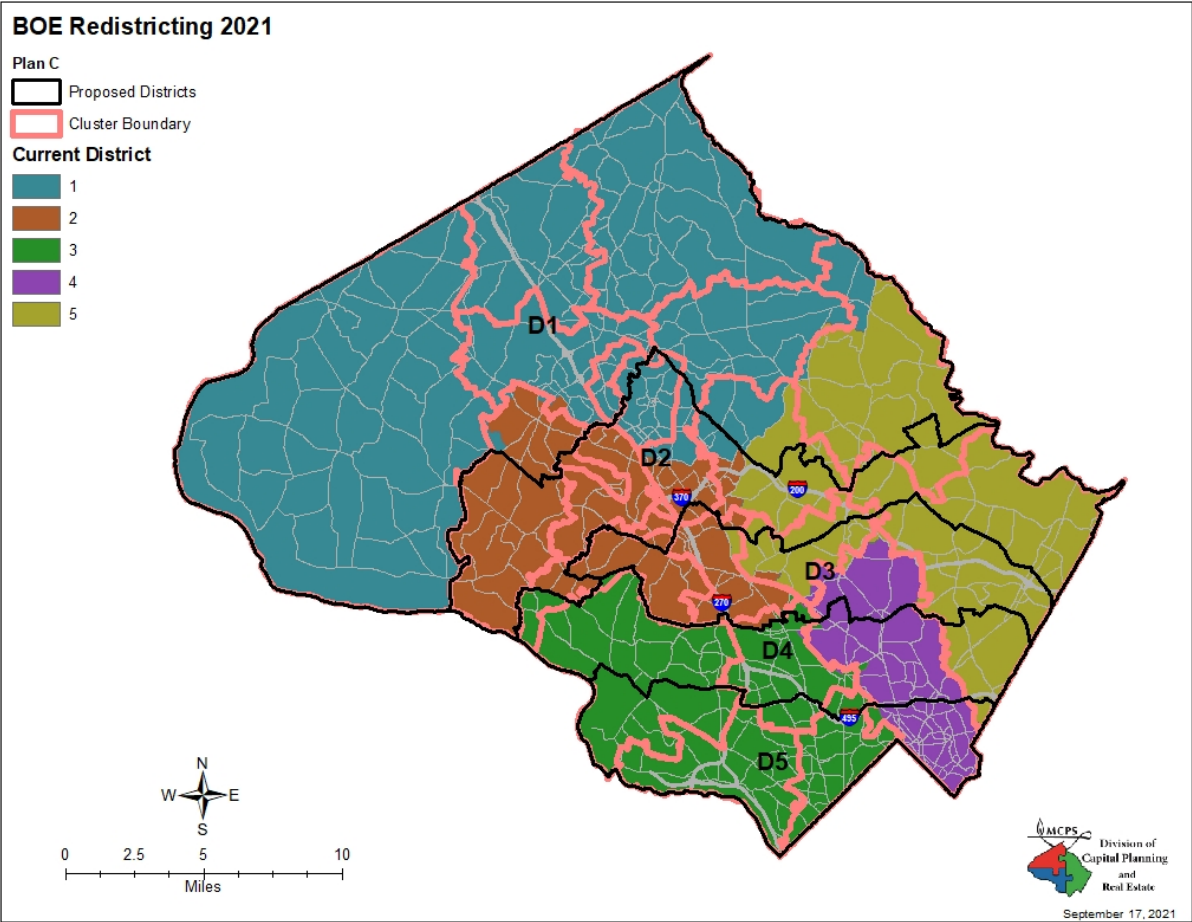
**Option B: Slight Modification**

- Slight Modification. Option B uses the pre-existing Board election district lines with some modifications to bring the district populations closer to the target population. The modifications consist of District 2 annexing portions of District 3, and District 5 annexing portions of District 4. With the modifications, the maximum deviation is 1,784 and minimum is -619 totaling 2,403, which produces a deviation of 1.1 percent, well below the 10 percent Deviation Population Threshold.



**Option C: Horizontal Regions**

- Horizontal Regions. Option C attempts to group the population using horizontal bands. The goal of this plan was to diversify the districts ethnically and socioeconomically. The maximum deviation is 1,523 and the minimum is -1,617 totaling 3,140. The total deviation percentage is 1.5 percent, well below the 10 percent Deviation Population Threshold.



**Option D: Population Centers**

- Population Centers. Option D attempts to delineate districts around similar population centers. This plan attempts to collect similar urban to suburban areas within the 5 districts. Clarksburg and Germantown; Rockville and Gaithersburg; Bethesda and Potomac; Silver Spring and Wheaton; and Olney/Sandy Spring and Burtonsville were grouped together in this plan.

